
Economic Development Committee

Komiti Oohanga Whakatupu

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Economic Development Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Thursday 27 March 2025 at 9:30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Ewan Wilson
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr Maria Huata
Heamana Tuarua

Members Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary
Cr Anna Casey-Cox
Cr Maxine van Oosten
Cr Louise Hutt (via audio-visual)
Cr Andrew Bydder
Cr Geoff Taylor
Cr Sarah Thomson
Cr Emma Pike
Cr Tim Macindoe

External Presenters Barry Harris, Mark Morgan and Scott Kendall – Waikato Regional Airport Limited
In Attendance Nicola Greenwell – Hamilton Waikato Tourism
Vanessa Williams and Mike Neale – Hamilton Central Business Association
Kelvin French and Stephanie Osborn – Co-Lab

Cr Huata opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. Apologies – *Tono aroha*

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Huata)

That the Economic Development Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Mayor Southgate, Cr Naidoo-Rauf and Cr Tauariki.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Taylor)

That the Economic Development Committee confirms the agenda

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga*

No members of the Economic Development Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero*

No members of the public wished to speak in the Public Forum

5. Confirmation of the Economic Development Committee Open Minutes 3 December 2024

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Macindoe)

That the Economic Development Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Economic Development Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2025 as a true and correct record.

6. Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed Cr Huata as Deputy Chair and noted their upcoming delegation trip to Chengdu, China one of Hamilton's Sister Cities.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Thomson)

That the Economic Development Committee receives the report.

7. External Agencies and CCO Reporting

Waikato Regional Airport Limited

External Representatives from Waikato Regional Airport Limited spoke to their presentation regarding the pivotal time for the airport, implementation of infrastructure, international flights, funding and the draft statement of intent. They responded to questions from Members concerning cost of terminal upgrades, economic benefits from international travel, allocation of resources and efforts and funding.

Hamilton and Waikato Tourism

External Representative from Hamilton Waikato Tourism provided an update on the key performance indicators and recent activities they had undertaken in the last 6 months. They responded to questions from Members concerning arrival of first flights, customer experience and funding.

Hamilton City Business Association

External representative from HCBA spoke to their 6-monthly report. They responded to questions from Members concerning funding, streetscapes, central city, housing, trolleys, future expansions and further considerations.

Co-Lab

External Representatives from Co-Lab presented the Co-Lab report and highlighted their purpose, the financials and their statement of intent. They responded to questions from Members concerning shared services and regulatory licenses.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)

That the Economic Development Committee:

- a) receives the report;

Waikato Regional Airport Limited

- b) receives the Waikato Regional Airport Limited half-yearly report to December 2024 (**Attachment 2**);
- c) endorses the Statement of Intent for Waikato Regional Airport Limited 2025-2026 for shareholder feedback (**Attachment 3**) subject to the inclusion of feedback provided at this meeting;

Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Limited

- d) receives the Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Limited half-yearly report to December 2024 (**Attachment 4**);

Hamilton Central Business Association

- e) approves the Hamilton Central Business Association Annual Central City Activation Plan and Budget for 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026 (**Attachment 8**) subject to the inclusion of feedback provided at this meeting;
- f) requests staff report back as part of the annual plan deliberations report to Council the mechanism to increase the Hamilton Business Association Annual Central City Activation Plan in line with inflation;
- g) requests staff to work with HCBA to investigate the opportunity of supporting central city retailers to report crime to the police effectively through the Auror platform;

Civic Financial Services'

- h) endorses Civic Financial Services' Statement of Intent 2025 (**Attachment 9**) subject to the inclusion of feedback provided at this meeting;
- i) receives Civic Financial Services' half-yearly report to June 2024 (**Attachment 10**);

Co-Lab

- j) receives Co-Lab's half-yearly report to 31 December 2024 (**Attachment 12**); and
- k) endorses Co-Lab's Statement of Intent 2025 (**Attachment 11**) subject to the inclusion of feedback provided at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned from 11.26am to 11.41am during the discussion of the above item.

8. General Manager's Report

The General Manager Strategy, Growth and Planning spoke to their report and highlighted the strategic work programme and the outcomes tracker.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Macindoe)
That the Economic Development Committee receives the report.

9. Strategic and General Update

Data Analytics, Economic and Policy

The Programme Manager of Economics & Policy provided the latest economic update touching on tariffs and geopolitics.

Economic Development Programme

The Economic Development Programme Manager spoke to the report in particular business engagement, tourism through an economic lens and regional development. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning collaboration opportunities.

Tourism and Events

The General Manager Destinations spoke to the report in particular budgets, funding, economic impact of events and future opportunities. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning seasonal staffing, international pricing, plans for increasing tours and retail sales.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)
That the Economic Development Committee receives the report.

10. Event Sponsorship Policy Review (*Recommendation to the Council*)

The General Manager Destinations took the report as read.

Resolved: (Cr Thomson/Cr Bydder)
That the Economic Development Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) recommends that the Council approves the draft Event Sponsorship Policy (as set out in **Attachment 2** of the staff report).

11. Strategic Property Update - March 2025

The Strategic Property Manager provided an update on the Municipal Endowment Fund.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr van Oosten)

That the Economic Development Committee receives the report.

12. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Macindoe)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1. Confirmation of the Economic Development Committee Public Excluded Minutes 3 December 2024) Good reason to withhold) information exists under) Section 7 Local Government) Official Information and) Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
C2. Strategic Property Update - March 2025		
C3. Strategic Issues Update (Public Excluded Matters)		

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item C1.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C2.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C3.	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i)
	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	

The meeting moved into the public excluded session at 12.50pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.36pm.